

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAI-01 TRSE-00 NEA-09 ACDA-10 /108 W

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R 220800Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4492

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXENBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1935

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, US

SUBJECT: IMPACT ON U.S. CREDIBILITY OF RECENT EVENTS IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: COPENHAGEN 1095

1. DANISH COMMENTATORS VIEW THAT CONFIDENCE IN U.S.
HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN WEAKENED BY LOSS OF CAMBODIA
AND DETERIORATING SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM (REFTEL)
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HAS BEEN PARTIALLY ECHOED BY SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER

PALME, WHO BELIEVES END OF WAR IN VIETNAM WILL ENABLE U.S. TO "REGAIN ITS CREDIBILITY." SPEAKING AT A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETING IN STOCKHOLM ON APRIL 19, PALME SAID WORLD CONFIDENCE IN U.S. WOULD BE STRENGTHENED RATHER THAN HARMED BY THE END OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT. AS PALME STATE IT: "IN VARIOUS PLACES, NOT THE LEAST IN WESTERN EUROPE, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ASSERT THAT NOW THE U.S. HAS LOST ITS CREDIBILITY...BUT IT IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE, NOW THAT A GRIM AND HOPELESS FROM THE BEGINNING WAR IS OVER. NOW CORRUPT REGIMES DISAPPEAR AND THERE IS FINALLY A CHANCE FOR THE U.S. TO REGAIN ITS CREDIBILITY." SPEECH (WHICH ALSO INCLUDED STRONG CRITICISM OF CZECH REGIME) WAS PRIME MINISTER'S FIRST DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN VIETNAM FOR SOME TIME.

2. VIEW THAT CONFIDENCE IN U.S. REMAINS STRONG DESPITE INDOCHINA SITUATION IS ALSO EXPRESSED IN APRIL 20 EDITORIAL IN SYDSVENSSKA DAGBLADET. AFTER ASSERTING THAT U.S. AFTER "10 YEARS OF WAR AND 50,000 FALLEN AMERICANS" HAS "FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS AS AN ALLY," EDITORIAL CONTINUES: "INDOCHINA HAS NOT BEEN OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE U.S. BUT WESTERN EUROPE IS. A CONTINUED MILITARY ENGAGEMENT IN VIETNAM WOULD HAVE PRESENTED ACTION IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THEREFORE, THE MARCH OUT OF INDOCHINA MAKES THE U.S. A STRONGER ALLY WHERE THE AMERICAN INTEREST IS NATURAL AND PROPER FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED."

3. SVENSKA DAGBLADET TODAY (APRIL 21) CARRIED IN FULL JAMES RESTON'S COLUMN ("THE FADING OF AMERICA?") ADVANCING THE SAME VIEW.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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